



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Zare et al.
Title: Fused-Silica Capillaries with Photopolymer Components
Application No.: 09/978,515 Filing Date: September 29, 2003
Examiner: Therkorn, Ernest G. Group Art Unit: 1723
Docket No.: STNB.055US3 Conf. No.: 5049

September 9, 2004

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)

Dear Sir:

Concurrently with the filing of the above-referenced application, Applicants submitted an information disclosure statement, a copy of which appears as Exhibit 1. Applicants thereafter received a return receipt postcard from the US PTO, indicating that same had been received, a copy of which appears as Exhibit 2.

In a series of telephone conversations between the undersigned and the Examiner on September 9, 2004, the undersigned explained that while the Examiner had indicated on June 9, 2004 that certain references had been considered, he had not indicated that certain other references that Applicants submitted upon the filing of the application had been considered, and that the undersigned had called him on June 25, 2004, September 3, 2004, and September 9, 2004, each time leaving a message requesting a return call to resolve this discrepancy, receiving a return call from the Examiner only on September 9, 2004.

In this same series of telephone conversations on September 9, 2004, the Examiner indicated for the first time that no information disclosure statement from Applicants was

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present in the file, and that he had considered references that were in the related parent application, but not the related grandparent application. The Examiner then requested that Applicants either file a Request for Continued Examination or submit an information disclosure statement and copies of the references at issue, all of which were present in the grandparent application, for his consideration. As September 9, 2004 is the last day for Applicants to take action in this application, a Request for Continued Examination of this application is submitted herewith, along with a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and copies of the references at issue.

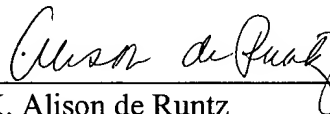
The RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is authorized in an accompanying transmittal letter.

Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions concerning this request or the above-identified patent application.

EXPRESS MAIL
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Respectfully submitted,



K. Alison de Runtz
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